Soft loans to fishermen

1554. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Fish Workers Forum has urged Government to extent soft loans to fishermen at 6 per cent interest rate;

(b) whether any decision has been taken in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Presiding Officer for DRT in Coimbatore

1555. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Debt Recovery Tribunal in Coimbatore exists in name and without presiding officer for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Presiding Officer will be appointed for the Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Although a regular Presiding Officer (PO) has not been appointed at DRT, Coimbatore, the work is being carried out by giving additional charge of the Tribunal to the PO of DRT, Ernakulam.

(b) Although a candidate was selected in February, 2005, the appointment could not be processed on account of Stay Order of the Hon'ble Madras High Court. The case has since been dismissed in December, 2005.

(c) Action to appoint a Presiding Officer as early as possible is under way.

Action against benami investments

1556. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what are the details of action been taken by the Income Tax Department against benami investments made through bogus share applications in the IPO scam of 2005?